IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 16, lines 3-4, please delete each of "106," "107," "108," "1010" and "1011" and substitute therefor -10^6 --, -10^7 --, -10^8 --, -10^9 --, -10^{10} -- and -10^{11} --, respectively.

At page 26, line 18, please delete each of "95oC," "55oC," and "72oC" and substitute therefor --95°C --, --55°C --, and --72°C --, respectively.

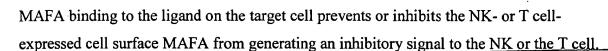
At page 32, lines 7-8, after each recitation of "Fc," please insert--ε--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 40 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 39. (Amended) A method for inhibiting an NK- or a T cell- expressed cell surface MAFA binding to a ligand on a target cell comprising the following steps
 - (a) providing a soluble [agent] MAFA extracellular domain that [prevents] inhibits the binding of the NK- or the T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA to its target cell ligand; and
 - (b) contacting the soluble [agent] <u>MAFA extracellular domain</u> to the NK or the T cell or the target cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit cell surface MAFA binding to the ligand on the target cell.
- 40. (Canceled) The method of claim-39, wherein the soluble agent that prevents the binding of the NK- or the T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA to its target cell ligand is an anti-MAFA antibody, or a composition comprising a subsequence of an anti-MAFA antibody, wherein the subsequence comprises an antigen binding site, that binds to the cell-surface MAFA.
- 45. The method of claim 39, wherein the contacting is in vitro or ex vivo.
- 46. The method of claim 39, wherein the contacting is in vivo.
- 47. (Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the in vivo contacting comprises administering the soluble [agent] MAFA extracellular domain to a subject.
- 48. The method of claim 47, wherein the subject is a mammal.
- 49. The method of claim 48, wherein the mammal is a human.
- 50. The method of claim 39, wherein the target cell is a tumor cell.
- 51. The method of claim 39, wherein inhibiting the NK- or the T cell- expressed cell surface



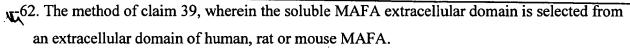
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- 52. (Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein [preventing or inhibiting the NK- or T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA from] generating an inhibitory signal to the NK or the T cell stimulates an activity of the NK or the T cell.
- 53. The method of claim 52, wherein the stimulated NK cell or T cell activity is an increase in NK cell- or T cell-mediated cell killing.
- 54. The method of claim 53, wherein the stimulated NK cell- or T cell- mediated cell killing is tumor cell killing.



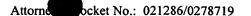
- 55. (Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the stimulated T cell activity is an increase in T killer cell (CTL) activity or secretion of a cytokine [secretion] by the T cell.
- 56. The method of claim 55, wherein the stimulated T cell activity is an increase in T killer cell (CTL) activity against virally infected cells.

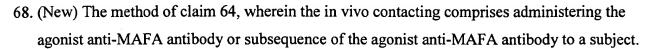
Please add the following new claims:





- 63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the human, rat and mouse MAFA extracellular domain are set forth in an extracellular domain of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and 5, respectively.
- 64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the mouse MAFA extracellular domain comprises amino acid residues 64 to 188 of SEQ ID NO:5.
- 65. (New) A method for inhibiting an NK- or a T cell- expressed cell surface MAFA binding to a ligand on a target cell comprising the following steps
 - (a) providing an agonist anti-MAFA antibody or a subsequence of an agonist anti-MAFA antibody that inhibits the binding of the NK- or the T cell-expressed cell surface MAFA to its target cell ligand; and
 - (b) contacting the agonist anti-MAFA antibody or subsequence of the agonist anti-MAFA antibody to the NK or the T cell or the target cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit cell surface MAFA binding to the ligand on the target cell.
- 66. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the contacting is in vitro or ex vivo.
- 67. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the contacting is in vivo.





- 69. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the subject is a mammal.
- 70. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the mammal is a human.
- 71. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the agonist anti-MAFA antibody or subsequence of the agonist anti-MAFA antibody generates an inhibitory signal to the NK or the T cell that inhibits an activity of the NK or the T cell.
- 72. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the activity inhibited comprises NK cell- or T cell-mediated cytotoxicity or secretion of a cytokine.-

